

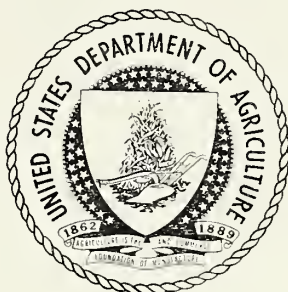
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AGRICULTURE

HELPS

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AMERICA

GROW

FEDERAL EXTENSION SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE HELPS



**Today in the U. S. about 1 out of
12 workers is on the farm.**

**Workers not needed on farms are
producing other goods and serv-
ices which add to our rising stand-
ard of living.**

AMERICA GROW



A GROWING AMERICA

The American economy is growing in many ways. We have more people, higher production, greater employment, more capital goods, and a wider variety of products, services and occupations.

One kind of growth that touches all of our lives is the continued rise in our standard of living. We eat better—more meat, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. Many of us own our own homes, equipped with time and labor-saving appliances. And we have greatly improved medical care.

After paying for basic items—food, clothing, shelter, and health—the average American has money left over to spend on conveniences, luxuries, and services. He goes more, sees more, and knows more.

AGRICULTURE'S ROLE

Agriculture plays a vital role in America's continued growth.

A big boost to the economy has come from the release of manpower from our farms, through rapidly increasing agricultural efficiency. The people not needed for farm work are producing the other goods and services which add to our rising standard of living.

Productivity of farm workers has gone up at an incredibly fast rate. Today's average farm worker, in fact, produces more than three times as much per hour as a farm worker did just 20 years ago; over four times as much as 40 years ago.

Our population has climbed nearly 80 million since 1920. Yet total man-hours of farm labor per year have dropped from 24 billion to 10.3 billion.

Using less than half the manpower and 12 million fewer acres than in 1920, today's farmers are producing almost twice as much food and fiber. Agriculture is feeding these 80 million more Americans—feeding them better—and we have an abundance to share with hungry people around the world.

In the United States, about 9 of every 100 in our labor force are farm workers. Contrast this with Russia, where nearly half the labor force works in agriculture. In Communist China, an estimated 7 or 8 of every 10 workers are in agriculture.

Because our farmers produce more with less effort, our food costs us less. This gives us more money

to spend on other goods and services—creating new demands and expanded markets—helping the economy grow.

In most countries of the world, people spend half or more of their income for food. Those in India spend 60 percent, the Japanese 42 percent, and Italians 45 percent.

But we Americans spend only one-fifth of our take-home pay for food. So we have four-fifths left to use as we choose.

A BIG CUSTOMER

Farmers are important customers of business and industry. This, too, helps America grow.

They spend \$25 to \$26 billion a year for equipment, goods, and services to produce crops and livestock. They spend another \$15 billion or more a year for family living items.

Each year, farmers spend:

- \$2.5 billion for new tractors and other motor vehicles, machinery, and equipment.
- \$3.5 billion for fuel, lubricants, and maintenance of machinery and motor vehicles.
- \$1.5 billion for fertilizer and lime.

Products bought annually by American farmers contain 320 million pounds of rubber—enough to put tires on nearly 6 million automobiles.

Farmers use 27 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year—more than Washington, D. C., Baltimore, Chicago, Boston, Detroit, and Houston combined.

These and other farm purchases create millions of jobs. Four out of every 10 jobs in private employment are related to agriculture. Sixteen million people work in processing and marketing farm products and furnishing supplies and services to farmers.

Freeing manpower for jobs in industry—expanding buying power by keeping food costs low—spending billions for industrial products and services. In these and many other ways, agriculture helps America grow.

Cooperative Extension Work: United States Department of Agriculture and State Land-Grant Colleges and Universities Cooperating.

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